

School District: Coach Maridee Dossett; Athletic Director Bud Postma; Principal Sharon Knowlton; and Superintendent Dr. Frank Palleria. The efforts put forth by these individuals have made it possible for the students to participate and perform at the highest level. I would also like to commend the gymnasts' parents for all the support and time they have put into the program.

Most of all I would like to congratulate the women who won this years State Championship and the women who have been a part of this impressive program. You have created an atmosphere that is conducive to success and made the most of your opportunity. Again, congratulations and the best of luck as you look toward next season.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT CLEVERLY

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize a man who has dedicated his life to education, Mr. Robert Cleverly. Bob was responsible for establishing the Close-up Foundation program at Ennis High School and has been involved in the program for over 20 years. During those years he has also been instrumental in establishing the Close-up program in numerous Montana schools. Bob was chosen by the Close-up Foundation in 1996 and 1997 and awarded the Linda Myers Chosen Award for Teaching Excellence in Civic Education. This award honors teachers and administrators who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation, and commitment to the foundation's citizenship mission. In addition to his Close-up advocacy, Bob was a history teacher at Ennis High School for 38 years and is credited with organizing the first aid and CPR program. Bob was active in the school's extra curricular activities as a very successful football coach, taking several teams to statewide level competition and winning two State championships. As a result of his coaching abilities and team organization skills, Bob was inducted into the Montana Coaches Hall of Fame.

Education is crucial to the future of America, and it is teachers like Bob who make education their priority, devoting their life to the future of our youth. Bob has been taking students to Washington, DC, for over 20 years with the Close-up program, giving students of Montana a firsthand view on how our Federal Government works, while experiencing the history our Nation's Capital has to offer. At great loss to Montana's high school students, this will be Bob's last year in the Close-up program, but thanks to his hard work, many Montana students for years to come will be able to explore our Nation's Capital through the Close-up program. I personally thank Bob and acknowledge his dedication, for he has gone above and beyond his civic duty.

We are proud as well as fortunate to have educators like Bob Cleverly in Montana, who are willing to dedicate

their lives to educate and prepare our children for the future.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES C. BARBIERI

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I mark the passing of a great Hoosier newspaperman and civic leader, James C. Barbieri.

My condolences go out to his wife Barbara, his son Chuck, his daughter Cindi, and his four grandchildren and one great grandchild. They shared this remarkable man with the wonderful community of Bluffton, IN, which also mourns his passing.

Beginning in 1950, Jim Barbieri worked almost every job conceivable at the Bluffton, IN, News-Banner. He was a reporter, advertising salesman, and circulation director. He became general manager of the venerable Wells County publication in 1975 and then co-owner, president, and publisher in 1986.

It was not unusual that on any given day he might write every page-1 story, the editorial, and if someone called in sick, he would pick up a delivery route, too. He was always available because he only missed 1 day of work over a 50-year stretch.

Born and raised in Park Ridge, IL, he attended DePauw University in Indiana where he was editor of the student newspaper. After serving his country in the Army during the Korean War, Jim worked briefly at The Chicago American before coming to Bluffton.

In 2005, the Hoosier State Press Association awarded Jim the Charlie Biggs Commitment to Community Award.

Jim Barbieri had that venerable smalltown newspaperman ready opinion on virtually everything that passes us by in life. Whether it was roads, parks, or the time Indiana should set its clocks in the summer, Jim used his unique forum to editorialize. I knew he was always looking over my shoulder providing ready comment on anything I did in the State, national, or international arena.

On visits to Bluffton, Jim Barbieri would cover the community event I was attending and then, in an extensive interview, explore my thoughts on the issues of the day. He would then exhaustively report all of it in the newspaper astutely and accurately.

He did not cease to impress all with his indefatigability. At the celebration of his 50 years with The News-Banner, Jim wrote this poem:

So that the way I work may be out of date,
But don't try to bend me and make me go straight.

Let me go on in my very old fashion
Covering the news with an old time passion.
The style in which my career has been blest,
To you may be faulty, but I (gave) it my best.

When God takes me home at the end of my years,
He'll not straighten me out and pop all my gears.

He'll say "you, reporter, for the sins that you bring,
We'll take you like you are with a bent angelic wing."

And we all know that Heaven could not run well

Without a journalist to give them all hell.
So in the celestial press room we bid you to tread,

But don't ever misquote Peter or misspell God.●

RETIREMENT OF ANTHONY FELICIA, JR.

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Anthony Felicia, Jr., upon his retirement as vice president of R&D and clinical administration for AstraZeneca. Tony's dedication and ability have won him the respect of friends and coworkers alike, along with the gratitude of many in the first State. He has been, and remains, a trusted friend of Delaware.

A native of Syracuse, NY, Tony was born on August 26, 1950, to Anthony and Maryann Felicia. He received his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York and completed his master's degree at Syracuse University.

Tony has been with AstraZeneca and the former Zeneca Pharmaceuticals and ICI for 28 years and has worked in operations, quality assurance, supply chain management, facilities and engineering, production operations, and international planning. Prior to Tony's employment with ICI in 1978, he worked for Bristol Laboratories in Syracuse, NY, from 1973 to 1977, where he held various quality assurance and production positions.

Throughout his career, Tony has provided strong leadership and served as a role model to many. One of the numerous highlights of his outstanding career was the pivotal role he played in helping to bring AstraZeneca's U.S. headquarters to Delaware during my time as Governor. I will always remember how Tony's main concern was making sure that the move was the right decision for his fellow employees and their families, as well as for shareholders. His hard work and down-to-earth personality made him a pleasure to work with during this critically important time. Both AstraZeneca and the first State are better off because of his efforts.

While his professional accomplishments are worthy of our admiration, it is within his personal life that Tony truly stands as an example to us all. Tony has volunteered a great deal of his time to support a number of non-profit and business organizations within the Delaware community, including Easter Seals, Delaware Technology Park, and the American Heart Association. Tony is currently in his sixth year of service as the president of the board of trustees for the Delaware Museum of Natural History. He also served on the Newark City Council from 1992 to 1998.

His leisure interests include playing golf, helping his children, and enjoying the beauty of Delaware at his beach house in Bethany. Now that he has more free time, Tony plans to spend

more time with his parents in Syracuse, NY. He also is starting a corporate consulting company and will remain active within the Delaware business community.

Tony lives with his wife Susan in Hockessin, DE. They have five children, Brian, Carrie, Heather, Meghan, and Dylan.

Through his tireless efforts, Tony Felicia has made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of individuals and enhanced the quality of life for our State. Upon his retirement, he will leave behind a legacy of commitment to public service for both his children and for generations that will follow. I thank him for the friendship that we share, and I congratulate him on a truly remarkable and distinguished career. I wish him and his family only the very best in all that lies ahead for each of them.●

HONORING DR. CARL TAYLOR

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to make some remarks today about a committed and pioneering individual, Dr. Carl Taylor, the assistant dean and director of the Center for Strategic Health Innovation at the University of South Alabama. Dr. Taylor earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Marshall University, a juris doctor from the University of Miami, and is a Fellow at the Royal Institution in London. He serves on the State of Alabama's Department of Public Health bioterrorism advisory board and has been the principal investigator on nearly a dozen disaster related grants, including the grant that developed the Alabama incident management software system which he superbly presented recently to the Senate Subcommittee on Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness.

This software system, referred to as AIMS, is an online hospital surge capacity and surge capability management tool used to support public health efforts during large-scale disaster response. This easy-to-use system shows which hospitals have available beds, staff, and equipment in real time while allowing hospitals to request help or offer assistance to one another. During Hurricane Katrina, AIMS was the software tool used by the Alabama Department of Public Health to manage information from 83 hospitals and 7 medical needs shelters. AIMS was vital to Alabama's outstanding performance in delivering quality medical care to vulnerable individuals in a time of crisis.

I commend Dr. Taylor for his leadership and creativity in developing this system that has application for the entire country. His work has the potential to save lives and reduce cost. This spirit of ingenuity is what keeps America strong.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to

the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a treaty which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the United States and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, with Annexes and Protocol, signed at Mar del Plata, Argentina, on November 4, 2005. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report prepared by the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is the first bilateral investment treaty (BIT) concluded since 1999 and the first negotiated on the basis of a new U.S. model BIT text, which was completed in 2004. The new model text draws on long-standing U.S. BIT principles, our experience with Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the executive branch's collaboration with the Congress in developing negotiating objectives on foreign investment for U.S. free trade agreements. The Treaty will establish investment protections that will create more favorable conditions for U.S. investment in Uruguay and assist Uruguay in its efforts to further develop its economy.

The Treaty is fully consistent with U.S. policy towards international and domestic investment. A specific tenet of U.S. investment policy, reflected in this Treaty, is that U.S. investment abroad and foreign investment in the United States should receive national treatment and most-favored-nation treatment. Under this Treaty, the Parties also agree to customary international law standards for expropriation and for the minimum standard of treatment. The Treaty includes detailed provisions regarding the computation and payment of prompt, adequate, and effective compensation for expropriation; free transfer of funds related to investment; freedom of investment from specified performance requirements; and the opportunity of investors to choose to resolve disputes with a host government through international arbitration. The Treaty also includes extensive transparency obligations with respect to national laws and regulations, and commitments to transparency and public participation in dispute settlement. The Parties also recognize that it is inappropriate to encourage investment by weakening or reducing the protections afforded in domestic environmental and labor laws.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to

the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 4, 2006.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 609. An act to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)), and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following member of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Award Board: Mr. CHOCOLA of Indiana.

The message further announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2103(b), the order of the House of December 18, 2005, and upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader, the Speaker reappoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress for a term of 6 years, effective April 1, 2006: Mr. William L. Kinney of South Carolina.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 609. An act to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs by unanimous consent, and ordered placed on the calendar:

S. 598. A bill to reauthorize provisions in the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 relating to Native Hawaiian low-income housing and Federal loan guarantees for Native Hawaiian housing.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-287. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the reduction in troop strength of the Army National Guard and proposed cuts in the force structure of the Air National Guard; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE RESOLUTION 229

Whereas, on January 18, 2006, the Secretary of the Army announced a plan to eliminate 6 combat brigades from the Army National Guard nationwide and to reduce the authorized troop strength of the Army National Guard from 350,000 to 333,000; and